

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 37-41 and 56-59 are pending under examination. Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated the allowability of claims 37-41 in the Office Action mailed January 18, 2007.

II. Claim Rejection

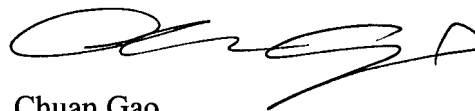
Claims 56-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness. Specifically, the Examiner contended that the language "an immunogenic fragment thereof" is unclear as to whether it refers to an immunogenic fragment of SEQ ID NO:107 or the claimed polypeptide. In response, claim 56 is amended to recite "an immunogenic fragment of SEQ ID NO:107," as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants thus believe that this rejection is overcome.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



Chuan Gao
Reg. No. 54,111

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
CG:cg
60993281 v1